35TH CONGRESS,
2D SESSION.

S. 500.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,

JANUARY 20, 1859.

Ordered to be printed.

AMENDMENT

Intended to be proposed by Mr. BENJAMIN to the bill (S. 500) "authorizing the President of the United States to use the public force of the United States in the cases therein provided," viz: Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

That whenever the President of the United States shall have reason to apprehend that any of the inter-oceanic transit routes situated within the limits of any of the Central American States, or of the republic of Mexico, is in danger of being obstructed or closed by lawless violence, or that hostile attack may be made on the person or property of any citizen or citizens of the United States in transit over any of said routes, it shall be lawful for the President to make such provision for the use of the land and naval forces of the United States in preventing the obstruction or closing of such transit, or in giving adequate protection to the citizens of the United States, as in his discretion may be required: *Provided*, That the

forces so used shall be withdrawn as soon as the objects contemplated by this section shall have been accomplished.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever, within the limits of any of said Central American States, or of the republic of Mexico, any violence or outrage shall be committed against the person or property of any citizen or citizens of the United States by any person or persons claiming to be in authority, or by insurgent or predatory forces, whether the violence against the person shall be open or disguised under the form of compulsory military or other service, or in any other manner whatever; and whether the violence against the property shall be by open seizure or confiscation or disguised under the form of compulsory loans or contributions, or in any other manner whatever, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States in obtaining immediate adequate redress for the wrongs so inflicted as aforesaid: *Provided,* That the forces so used shall be withdrawn as soon as the objects contemplated by this section shall have been accomplished.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That whenever the President shall exercise any of the powers authorized by this act he shall make report thereof to Congress forthwith, if in session, or if in recess, then at the next ensuing session.